

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 03769 011921Z

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AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

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AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR UNN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA UNN

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA UNN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE UNN

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3769

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CORRECTION 3769 VICE 769)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJECT: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS - APRIL 1975.

BEGIN SUMMARY: APRIL IN MEXICO WAS A MONTH DOMINATED BY
PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS: A GOM OFFICIAL NAMED SEVEN POSSIBLE
SUCCESSORS; THE PRI PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HIS PARTY WOULD
ADOPT A SIX YEAR PLAN, AFTER WHICH IT WOULD CHOOSE ITS
CANDIDATE; PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CANDIDATES INCREASED;
AND TWO EPISODES, THE OUSTER OF THE GOVERNOR OF HIDALGO,
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 03769 011921Z

AND AN ATTACK ON THE GOVERNOR OF NUEVO LEON, ALSO RELATED

TO THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. MEANWHILE THE MARCH 14 UNAM INCIDENT DIED DOWN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GUERRERO CONFLICT WAS QUIETLY RESOLVED. AS THE GOM PREPARED FOR THE UN CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, IT DISCOVERED AT LEAST A FEW MEXICAN WOMEN DON'T THINK OF THE ECONOMIC CHARTER WHEN THEY CONSIDER THE STATUS OF WOMEN. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

ALTHOUGH INTEREST IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION HAS BEEN GROWING OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, IN APRIL THE FLOOD GATES SEEMED TO OPEN. ON APRIL 10, HYDRAULIC RESOURCES SECRETARY ROVIROSA BROKE TRADITION BY NAMING SEVEN POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS. ALTHOUGH SOME FOLLOWED THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH CALLS FOR ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING, INCLUDING POLITICAL PLATFORMS, ETC., IT NOW APPEARS NOTHING BASIC HAS CHANGED. TABOO (BECAUSE OF THREAT TO PRI UNITY) PREVENTS OVERT CAMPAIGNING AND RULING ELITE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO MAKE SELECTION OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW. BY MONTHS END, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CONCERN APPEARED TO BE SHUTTING OFF THE PREMATURE INTEREST IN HIS SUCCESSOR AS HE CALLED UPON ALL CITIZENS TO LEAVE THIS QUESTION UNTIL THE PROPER TIME -- AFTER THE RULING PARTY (PRI) DRAWS UP A SIX YEAR PLAN FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.

IF OVERT CAMPAIGNING IS PROHIBITED, PRIVATE MANEUVERING HAS FLOURISHED. IN EARLY APRIL THE INFLUENTIAL MEXICO CITY DAILY EXCELSIOR PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW CRITICAL OF NUEVO LEON GOVERNOR PEDRO ZORRILLA, A MOYA PALENCIA PROTEGE. EXCELSIOR THEN ATTACKED ZORRILLA WHEN IN HIS REBUTTAL ZORRILLA REFUSED TO ADMIT HE WAS ALLIED WITH MOYA. CONGEN MONTERREY REPORTS ZORRILLA DOES NOT HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE OF MONTERREY INDUSTRIALISTS AND MAY BE VULNERABLE SPOT IN MOYA'S PRESIDENTIAL BID.

MOYA LOOKED STRONGER THAN EVER, HOWEVER, WHEN ON APRIL 29 THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS DEPOSED THE GOVERNOR OF HIDALGO, WHO ATTACKED MOYA LAST SEPT-OCTOBER AND THEN RENEWED ATTACKS IN APRIL. OUSTER WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 03769 011921Z

AWESOME IN ITS ORCHESTRATION OF POWER AND WAS CLEAR SIGN OF PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT OF MOYA ON THIS ISSUE, AT LEAST. BUT SINCE INTEREST OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IS TO KEEP POLITICIANS GUESSING UNTIL OCTOBER, WHEN HE HAS SAID CANDIDATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED, MOYA MAY NOT HAVE CLEAR SAILING YET.

2. STUDENTS

SIX WEEKS AFTER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS STONED AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THAT INCIDENT HAS LARGELY BEEN FORGOTTEN AND THE PRESIDENT IS AGAIN DIALOGUING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE - IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MORELOS, GUADALAJARA, AND CHIAPAS. IN BAJA PRESIDENT DECLARED MEXICO WOULD FOLLOW ITS OWN COURSE OF A MIXED ECONOMY - SHUNNING BOTH SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM. BUSINESSMEN FOUND THIS REASSURING.

IN GUERRERO, WHERE INTERVENTION OF STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INTO CAMPUS POLITICS PROVIDED ANOTHER POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE, A SOLUTION WAS QUIETLY REACHED: AN INVESTIGATIVE BODY FOUND NO VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S AUTONOMY, BUT THE RECTOR WHOM AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT FROM ASSUMING OFFICE WILL APPARENTLY DO SO. NEWS OF THIS EVENT SIMPLY DISAPPEARED FROM PAPERS.

3. TERRORISTS STRIKE AGAIN

AFTER A LULL OF NEARLY THREE MONTHS TWELVE 23 OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE MEMBERS ROBBED A MEXICO CITY BRANCH BANK APRIL 25. GUN BATTLE WHICH ENSUED LEFT TWELVE DEAD INCLUDING ONE TERRORIST. 23 OF SEPTEMBER GROUP ADVOCATES MASS VIOLENCE AS PRELUDE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF MARXIST STATE. ITS PATTERN OF ROBBERIES OVER LAST SIX MONTHS SUGGESTS IT MAY BE ACQUIRING ARSENALS WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH VIOLENCE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE.

4. WOMEN MEET IN GUANAJUATO

IN FEBRUARY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA INAUGURATED WOMEN'S YEAR IN MEXICO WITH THEME WHICH HAS BECOME GOVERNMENT SPONSORED LINE: MOST EXPLOITED WOMEN ARE IN THIRD WORLD, SUFFERING FROM UNJUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MEXICO 03769 011921Z

ORDER FOR WHICH ECHEVERRIA CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES IS SOLUTION. ON APRIL 5-6 A RECENTLY FORMED WOMEN'S GROUP MET IN GUANAJUATO TO DISCUSS WOMEN'S ISSUES. GOM QUIETLY BUT SUBSTANTIALLY SUPPORTED GROUP BUT DISENCHANTMENT BECAME DISCERNIBLE (TO ATTENDING EMBOFF) WHEN WOMEN PREFERRED TO "DEMAND" SOLUTIONS TO STATUS OF WOMEN ISSUES INSTEAD OF PRAISING CHARTER. JOVA

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